

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 50-71 are pending in this case. Claims 1-49 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new Claims 50-71 are added by the present amendment. New Claims 50-71 are supported by the specification¹ and original claims. New Claims 50-71 add no new matter.

In the outstanding Official Action, the specification was objected to for containing informalities. Claims 1-17 and 22-38 were objected to for containing informalities. Claims 1-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claims 1-4, 6, 22-25, 27, 43-44, and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Morton (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,783). Claims 5 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Morton in view of Short (*Embedded Microprocessor Systems Design: An Introduction Using the Intel 80C188EB*, herein "Short"). Claims 7-17, 19-21, 28-38, 40-42, 45-47, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sugiura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,387,983, herein "Sugiura") in view of Morton. Claims 18 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Morton in view of Ojha (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,468).

An interview was held on May 27, 2004 to discuss the present case, attended by Examiner O'Brien, Ed Tracy, and Surinder Sachar. The applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his time in conducting the interview. The differences between the new independent claims and the cited references were discussed in detail. The Examiner agreed to consider the new claims after submission of the present amendment.

¹See e.g. Specification at page 52, lines 7-20 and page 86, lines 2-10.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended to correct the informalities cited in the outstanding Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that there are no citations of co-pending U.S. Patent Applications in the present specification. No new matter is added. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to be overcome.

In response to the objection to Claims 1-17 and 22-38, Claims 1-17 and 22-38 are canceled, making the present objection moot.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 1-49 are canceled, making the present rejection moot. Also, new Claims 50-71 have been written to avoid the language objected to in now canceled Claims 1-49.

Since Claims 1-49 are canceled, the rejections of Claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 are moot. As discussed herebelow, it is respectfully submitted that new Claims 50-71 are patentable over the art of record.

New independent Claim 50 recites a multi-function image processing apparatus:

...
wherein the image reader, the image writer, and the image processing unit are configured as independent, replaceable units,

the multi-function image processing apparatus is configured to perform both printing and copying functions, the image reader is configured to read data for copying functions, the image processing unit is configured to perform the image processing for both printing and copying functions, and the image writer is configured to image data on the transcription sheet for both printing and copying functions,

...

Morton discloses a microchip comprising a plurality of processors configured to perform SIMD processing.² It is respectfully submitted that Morton does not teach or suggest an image reader, an image writer, or an image processing unit configured as an independent,

²See Morton column 8, lines 66-67 and column 13, lines 17-19.

replaceable unit, or a multi-function image processing apparatus configured to perform both printing and copying functions, as recited in Claim 50.

Short discloses interrupt processing for a microchip.³ It is respectfully submitted that Short does not teach or suggest an image reader, an image writer, or an image processing unit configured as an independent, replaceable unit, or a multi-function image processing apparatus configured to perform both printing and copying functions, as recited in Claim 50.

Sugiura discloses a facsimile apparatus comprising means for converting binary image data into multi-value image data.⁴ It is respectfully submitted that Sugiura does not teach or suggest an image reader, an image writer, or an image processing unit configured as an independent, replaceable unit, or a multi-function image processing apparatus configured to perform both printing and copying functions, as recited in Claim 50.

Ojha discloses a copier with user-definable editing and machine operating functions.⁵ It is respectfully submitted that Ojha does not teach or suggest an image reader, an image writer, or an image processing unit configured as an independent, replaceable unit, or a multi-function image processing apparatus configured to perform both printing and copying functions, as recited in Claim 50.

Since the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 50, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 50 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 51-57 are dependent from Claim 50, which is respectfully submitted to be patentable. Thus, Claims 51-57 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 50.

Claim 58 recites a scanner “wherein the image reader and the image processing unit are configured as independent, replaceable units.” As discussed above with respect to Claim

³See Short at pages 468-469.

⁴See Sugiura, Abstract.

⁵See Ojha, Abstract.

50, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest this element. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 58 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 59-63 are dependent from Claim 58, which is respectfully submitted to be patentable. Thus, Claims 59-63 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 58.

Claim 64 recites a printer “wherein the image writer and the image processing unit are configured as independent, replaceable units.” As discussed above with respect to Claim 50, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest this element. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 64 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 65-69 are dependent from Claim 64, which is respectfully submitted to be patentable. Thus, Claims 65-69 are also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 64.

Claim 70 recites a multi-function image processing apparatus “configured to operate a plurality of jobs in parallel, said jobs comprising printing, copying, and/or facsimile jobs.” It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest this element. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 70 is patentable over the cited references.

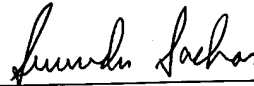
Claim 71 is dependent from Claim 70, which is respectfully submitted to be patentable. Thus, Claim 71 is also believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 70.

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Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance.
An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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